

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims reflects all claim amendments and replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. Material to be inserted is in **underline**, and material to be deleted is in ~~strikeout~~ or (if the deletion is of five or fewer consecutive characters or would be difficult to see) in double brackets [[]]. Any cancellations are without prejudice.

1. (currently amended) A water-jet propulsion personal watercraft comprising:
 - a body including a hull and a deck covering the deck from above;
 - a water jet pump disposed on a rear portion of the body and configured to propel the watercraft;
 - a[[n]] **four-cycle** engine mounted forward relative to the water jet pump within the body and configured to drive the water jet pump;
 - a propeller shaft configured to connect the engine to the water jet pump;
 - a coupling mechanism disposed behind the engine and configured to connect an output shaft of the engine to the propeller shaft; and
 - an air cleaner box disposed behind the engine and above the coupling mechanism within the body and connected to an air-intake pipe of the engine, the air cleaner box having an air inlet which opens within an engine room which is formed within the body, and the air cleaner box being configured to take in air through the air inlet for the engine from outside the watercraft,

wherein the air cleaner box is removably rigidly attached by a support member to a region of the deck that is located behind and in the vicinity of a first opening which is provided at a position of the deck above the engine and is connected to the air-intake pipe of the engine through a flexible connecting pipe.

2. (canceled)

3. (canceled)

4. (currently amended) The water-jet propulsion personal watercraft according to Claim ~~[[2]]~~1, further comprising:
a storage box removably mounted behind and adjacent the air cleaner box, the storage box being mounted into the body from above.

5. (currently amended) The water-jet propulsion personal watercraft according to Claim 4, further comprising:
~~a first opening provided at a position of the deck above the engine;~~
a second opening provided to be spaced apart from and behind the first opening, wherein
the storage box is removably fitted to the second opening, and
the air cleaner box is supported by an upper wall of the deck between the first and second openings ~~and connected to the air-intake pipe of the engine through a flexible connecting pipe.~~

6. (currently amended) The water-jet propulsion personal watercraft according to Claim 1, wherein the air inlet of the air cleaner box is ~~covered with a cover such that a gap is formed between the air inlet and the cover~~**provided on an upper portion of the air cleaner box and opens outward of a wall portion of the air cleaner box which forms an inner space of the air cleaner box, the air inlet being covered with a cover positioned opposite the air inlet such that the cover and the air inlet form a gap between them which forms an air passage through which air is guided from an interior of the engine room to the inner space of the air cleaner box.**

7. (currently amended) The water jet-propulsion personal watercraft according to Claim 6, wherein ~~the air inlet of the air cleaner box is provided on an upper portion of the air cleaner box, and the air cleaner box is provided with an air guide pipe having the air inlet and an outlet and extending downward from the air inlet to a lower portion of~~**the inner space of** the air cleaner box ~~within the air cleaner box, and the~~**outlet opens in the lower portion of the inner space.**

8. (currently amended) The water-jet propulsion personal watercraft according to Claim 7, wherein the air inlet is provided in a concave portion **configured to be caved rearward and to be** formed on an upper portion of a front wall of **the wall portion of** the air cleaner box.

9. (previously presented) The water-jet propulsion personal watercraft according to Claim 6, wherein the air cleaner box has a separating wall provided inside thereof and configured to divide an internal space into a plurality of sub-spaces, and a communicating passage is provided on the separating wall to allow the sub-spaces to fluidically communicate with each other.

10. (canceled)

11. (canceled)

12. (currently amended) ~~[[The]]~~A water-jet propulsion personal watercraft according to ~~claim 11~~, further comprising:

a body including a hull and a deck covering the deck from above;

a water jet pump disposed on a rear portion of the body and configured to propel the watercraft;

an engine mounted forward relative to the water jet pump within the body and configured to drive the water jet pump;

a propeller shaft configured to connect the engine to the water jet pump;

a coupling mechanism disposed behind the engine and configured to connect an output shaft of the engine to the propeller shaft;

an air cleaner box disposed behind the engine and above the coupling mechanism within the body and configured to take in air for the engine from outside the watercraft;

a storage box removably mounted behind and adjacent the air cleaner box,
the storage box being mounted into the body from above,

a first opening provided at a position of the deck above the engine; and

a second opening provided to be spaced apart from and behind the first opening;

wherein the engine is a four-cycle engine;

wherein the storage box is removably fitted to the second opening; and

wherein the air cleaner box is supported by an upper wall of the deck between the first and second openings and connected to an air-intake pipe of the engine through a flexible connecting pipe.